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AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

1941 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - INSULAR REGION

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WHAT THE 1941 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM OFFERS
THE FARMERS OF ALASKA

For five years the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, recognizing the need for soil conservation in Alaska, has offered to assist farmers there in accomplishing this purpose. Each year a program has been drawn up providing payments to farmers who carry out recognized soil conserving and improving practices which can be performed in connection with their regular operations. As each program has been brought to a conclusion, experience gained thereby has been applied in formulating the succeeding program. In addition, the recommendations of farmers, through their organizations and agencies working with them, have been given consideration and followed out where practicable or permissible under the national Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.

Carrying its agricultural conservation activity in Alaska into its sixth year, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration sets forth herein a description of the assistance it is prepared to offer in 1941. It is based upon the Agricultural Conservation Program Bulletin for the Insular Region approved by the Secretary of Agriculture March 13, 1941. As heretofore, payments will be made at stipulated rates for various practices which fall into six general groups as follows:

1. Planting crops that conserve and build up the soil. Interplanting, planting in rotation or strip-cropping legumes with other crops or plowing them under, for improvement of the soil, and planting protective nondepleting cover crops on prepared land for use as livestock feed are included as desirable practices.
2. Conserving and improving grazing land. Land suitable for grazing may be improved by seeding, without preparation of the soil, or by applying crop residue for protection against erosion.
3. Adopting cultivation practices that prevent erosion. Planting and cultivating crops along the contours of the land and listing land to be fallowed or to be planted to protective nondepleting cover crops are encouraged for reducing soil washing.
4. Controlling run-off water. Several measures may be taken to retard the flow of run-off water: construction of permanent ditches and continuous terrace on sloping land, and building check dams or planting erosion-resistant grasses in gullies.
5. Applying soil-improving materials. Stimulation of the growth of soil-conserving crops to increase their effectiveness may directly result from applying phosphate and potash to them and indirectly from applying lime to soil on which they are to be grown in rotation or otherwise.

6. Planting forest trees. Woodland improvement contributes to the conservation of soil resources. In order to encourage it, forestry practices are offered which include credit for planting trees for the establishment or maintenance of forests, for use as windbreaks, and to arrest erosion on the sides and crests of gulches.

PAYMENTS

Allowances. The program has been prepared in such a way as to use the funds available to obtain the maximum amount of conservation that would not otherwise be performed. With this consideration in mind, maximum allowances earnable on individual farms have been set.

In the case of cropland - that is, land which is tilled annually or in a regular rotation or is devoted to bearing or nonbearing orchards other than abandoned orchards - the maximum allowance is \$4.00 per acre for the first 10 acres and \$1.00 per acre for any additional acreage.

In the case of grazing land, all pasture land included in the farm but not included in the cropland is considered in the computation of the maximum allowance. An allowance of 40 cents per acre is made on the first 1,000 acres and 10 cents per acre on any additional acreage.

The allowance for any farm determines the maximum payment that can be made for that farm. For example, the allowance on a farm with 12 acres of cropland and no pasture land would be \$42.00. If the amount earned for the practices carried out came to \$40.00, the farmer would receive \$40.00. On the other hand, if he carried out sufficient practices to earn \$50.00, his payment would be only \$42.00 - the largest allowable payment on a farm containing 12 acres of cropland and no pasture land. (In addition, the payment in either case would be increased in accordance with the schedule shown below.)

Maximum payment. The maximum payment that will be made under any circumstances to any individual, partnership or estate with respect to farms or ranches located exclusively in the Territory of Alaska is \$10,000. If the agricultural operations of an association, corporation or trust are carried on elsewhere in the United States as well as in Alaska, the total payment on all operations will not exceed the same figure.

Small payment increases. Payments of \$200 or less are scaled upwards according to provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act as follows:

Payment Earned:	Amount of Increase:
\$20 or less - - -	40 percent.
\$21 to \$40 - - -	\$8, plus 20 percent of amount over \$20.
\$41 to \$60 - - -	\$12, plus 10 percent of amount over \$40.
\$61 to \$186 - - -	\$14.
\$187 to \$200- - -	Enough to increase payment to \$200.

Rate changes. The rates of allowance and payment as set forth herein may be decreased or increased, as determined by the extent of participation in the program, by as much as 10 percent, or otherwise adjusted to remain within the limits of funds appropriated by Congress.

Application for payment. The Fairbanks office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration is prepared to take applications for payment up to March 31, 1942. During the first 3 months of 1942, an effort will be made by that office to reach every farmer in the Territory. Any farmer wishing to apply for payment, however, who has not participated in previous programs or who has other reason to believe that his name is not on file at that office, should communicate with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, University of Alaska, College, Alaska, or any office of the Agricultural Extension Service, before January 1, 1942.

If an application for a farm is filed within the time prescribed, any producer on the farm who did not sign the application may subsequently apply for his share of the payment provided he does so before the expiration of the applicable appropriation.

In cases where supplemental or adjustment applications are necessary, they may be filed up to April 30, 1942, or, if a check is issued in payment of the original application or notice is given of ineligibility for payment under an original application, up to 30 days after the date of delivery of the check or the notice.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

In the following list, the practices are not grouped entirely according to their applicability to pasture land or cropland, as there are many farmers who have an interest in both.

The rates of payment shown for any particular practice will be reduced 50 percent if a part equal to less than one-half of the total cost of carrying out the practice is borne by a Federal or Territorial agency through the furnishing of labor, seed, or other materials. If half or more of the expense is borne by an agency of that kind in this manner, no payment at all will be made. These provisions do not apply to labor or materials supplied to the Territory of Alaska or one of its political subdivisions or agencies by an agency of the Territory. Trees are not considered as materials for the purpose of this paragraph, full payment being offered where their use is involved regardless of their source.

PLANTING CROPS THAT CONSERVE AND BUILD UP THE SOIL

Practice No. 1. For interplanting protective nondepleting cover crops with other crops, payment will be made at the rate of \$2.00 per acre.

In order to qualify, the interplanted cover crops must occupy at least 50 percent of the total area.

Practice No. 2. For planting protective nondepleting cover crops in rotation with other crops, payment will be made at the rate of \$3.00 per acre.

In order to qualify, a good stand of the cover crops grown in rotation must be secured and brought to the proper stage of maturity.

Practice No. 3. For using protective nondepleting cover crops for green manuring, payment will be made at the rate of \$4.00 per acre.

Before the cover crop may be plowed under for green manure, a good stand must be obtained and brought to the proper stage of maturity - which in the case of legumes will be considered to be the blossoming period.

Practice No. 4. For planting perennial varieties of protective nondepleting cover crops on properly prepared land for permanent pasture or for cutting green for livestock feed, payment will be made at the rate of \$4.00 per acre.

The amount of seed used per acre must conform to the best agricultural practice of the community in order that a good stand at maturity will be assured.

Practice No. 5. For strip-cropping land of 2 percent or more slope along lines deviating not more than 2 percent from contour lines with protective nondepleting cover crops or perennial varieties of crops which will prevent soil washing, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 per acre.

In this practice, the strips must be planted along correctly determined lines approaching the contour to within 2 percent. The protective crops should occupy at least 25 percent of the total acreage strip-cropped.

CONSERVING AND IMPROVING GRAZING LAND

Practice No. 6. For seeding pasture land with good seed of adapted varieties of perennial grasses or legumes which do not require preparation of a seed bed, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 5 pounds of seed sown.

The seed must be properly distributed over the area sown, a sufficient amount being used to insure a good stand at maturity.

Practice No. 7. For applying crop residue on the surface of soil subject to serious wind erosion, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 10 cubic yards of material applied.

The crop residue must be spread evenly and to a proper depth over the area covered in order to provide adequate protection from erosion and to promote the establishment of a permanent vegetative cover.

ADOPTING CULTIVATION PRACTICES THAT PREVENT EROSION

Practice No. 8. For plowing, planting, and cultivating land of 2 percent or more slope along lines deviating not more than 2 percent from contour lines, payment will be made according to the crop grown. In the case of land planted to truck crops the rate is \$2.00 per acre; when land is planted to other crops the rate is 50 cents per acre.

All operations enumerated must be performed during 1941 except that the land may have been plowed in 1940 in preparation for planting in 1941. Contour lines must be carefully determined so that any deviation from them of more than 2 percent will be avoided.

Practice No. 9. For listing land along lines deviating not more than 2 percent from contour lines for fallowing or for planting protective nondepleting cover crops, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 2 acres.

The land must be listed along correctly determined lines at intervals which conform to good farming practice.

CONTROLLING RUN-OFF WATER

Practice No. 10. For constructing permanent ditching on land of 6 percent or more average slope, with suitable outlets, for the diversion of surface water to prevent soil washing, payment will be made according to the type of land on which the ditching is constructed. The rate is \$1.00 for each 250 linear feet of ditching when it is constructed on land where the topography, stoniness, or size of fields requires that the ditching be constructed entirely by hand labor; when constructed on other land, the rate is \$1.00 for each 500 linear feet of ditching.

Permanent ditching does not include any temporary field ditching nor any ditching primarily for purposes of irrigation, subsurface drainage or underdrainage, or primarily for any purpose other than the prevention of soil washing.

Ditches must be constructed where they are needed to prevent soil washing and in a manner that will insure their permanence. They must be of sufficient width and depth and of proper slope to provide adequate carrying capacity for surface water at a sufficiently low velocity to prevent washing and gullyng of the soil. In no event will ditches with a slope of more than 4 percent be eligible for payment.

Practice No. 11. For constructing a sufficient amount of continuous terrace to give adequate protection against erosion, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 100 feet of terrace with a maximum of \$5.00 per acre.

Credit will be allowed for up to 500 feet of terrace per acre, provided it is properly laid out, adequately protected against overflowing or washing, and supplied with outlets for the discharge of water

accumulated. Mangum-type terraces are not considered effective on land of 8 percent or more slope nor Nichols-type on land of 20 percent or more slope. Bench-type terraces will be recognized as effective on land of 20 percent or more slope if depth of soil profile permits.

Practice No. 12. For the construction and maintenance of check dams in gullies, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 10 linear feet of dams constructed.

Check dams must be securely constructed to prevent washing out, well anchored so that washing will not occur at the intersections with the sides of the gully, and properly protected with well established vegetation. The upper edge of the dam shall be the basis for linear measurement.

Practice No. 13. For establishing a good stand of erosion resistant perennial grasses in gullies, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 4,000 square feet of grasses established.

A solid, vigorous stand of grasses, particularly suited to the prevention of soil washing, must be established and maintained on the area planted.

APPLYING SOIL-IMPROVING MATERIALS

Practice No. 14. For applying ground limestone or its equivalent, payment will be made at the rate of \$5.00 per ton with a maximum of \$10.00 per acre.

Receipts or invoices showing the purchase of lime, properly dated and signed by the vendor, should be retained for presentation to the farm inspector at the time of inspection.

Practice No. 15. For applying 20 percent superphosphate or 50 percent muriate of potash, or both, to protective nondepleting cover crops, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 100 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate or 50 percent muriate of potash applied, with a maximum of \$2.00 per acre.

Other suitable phosphate and potash materials will be paid for on the basis of the equivalent quantity of 20 percent superphosphate or 50 percent muriate of potash. Application of the fertilizer to the soil may be made to a growing crop or at the time of seeding a new crop.

It is to be noted that no payment will be made for the use of fertilizer with any crop other than protective nondepleting cover crops nor for fertilizer elements other than phosphate and potash. Receipts or invoices showing the purchase of the fertilizer used, properly dated and signed by the vendor, should be retained for presentation to the farm inspector at the time of inspection.

PLANTING FOREST TREES

Practice No. 16. For planting land entirely to forest trees or windbreak trees, payment will be made at the rate of \$5.00 per acre on which the planting is done.

Forest trees must be planted on suitably prepared land, the variety of trees to be well adapted to forestation under local conditions. At least 500 trees must be planted per acre unless a representative of the Fairbanks office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration determines that a smaller number conforms to good farming practice in a particular instance.

Windbreak plantings must be made with suitable trees placed in areas where a windbreak is needed and spaced closely enough within the row, or rows, to form an adequate windbreak.

Practice No. 17. For planting forest trees on the sides or crests of gulches or on erosion scars or in areas having an inadequate stand of trees, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 50 trees planted.

Forest trees planted on the sides or crests of gulches or on erosion scars must be varieties which are suitable for this type of planting and must be properly planted and spaced to prevent soil washing.

Where previous plantings of forest trees have not grown up solidly and the spaces are planted to seedling trees, a sufficient number must be planted to insure a complete stand at maturity.

Full payment will be made even though seedling trees are obtained from a Territorial or Federal agency.

GENERAL

Eligible applicants. Application for payment with respect to a farm shall be made by the landlord, tenants, and sharecroppers thereon, payment to be divided among them on the basis of the contribution made by each to the soil-building practices concerned.

Appeals. Should any person wish to question any decision of the Fairbanks office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration as to his right to a payment or the amount of his payment, he may request in writing a reconsideration of the decision within 15 days after notice thereof has been made available to him. Further appeal may subsequently be made to the Director, Division of Special Programs, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, if made within 15 days after receipt of notice of the decision on the first appeal.

Ineligibility. It is to be understood that no payment will be made to a person who takes any action tending to prevent the accomplishment of the purposes of the program. No application will therefore be approved for payment if the applicant has (1) adopted any practices which tend to defeat the purposes of the 1941 or previous agricultural conserva-

tion programs, (2) offset in any way the performance for which payment would otherwise be authorized, or (3) adopted any practice found to be contrary to sound conservation practice with respect to forest land or woodland owned or controlled by him.

Assignments. Any person who may be entitled to a payment in connection with the 1941 program may assign his interest in the payment as security for cash loaned or advances made for the purpose of financing the making of a crop in 1941. No assignment will be recognized, however, unless it is made in writing on Form ACP-69 in accordance with instructions (ACP-70-Insular) issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. These forms may be obtained from any office of the Agricultural Extension Service or from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration at the address given below.

Inquiries. Inquiries with respect to the program may be directed to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, c/o Director of Extension, University of Alaska, College, Alaska.

Issued March 18, 1941, with the approval of the Administrator.

H. B. Boyd
Director, Division of
Special Programs